

EDUC 625 (Three Credits)

Instructors: Joseph Keating, Ph.D. (Associate Professor of Science Education at CSU San Marcos), Lee Keyser, BS (Physical Science, Geography), Terri Anderson, M.S. (Special Education)

Schedule: May 21 (Wednesday) 5-8PM UH 458, June 22 to June 27 8-8 (Monday-Friday Various locations in Yosemite National Park Final Assignments due--TBA

Office Hours: Arranged by appointment

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Description :

This intensive interdisciplinary wilderness course will provide content, experiences and teaching strategies which will be a basis for teachers or prospective teachers to develop interdisciplinary curriculum for their K-12 students. The beautiful and enchanting High Sierra country in Yosemite Nat'l Park will be the context for this the sixth version of *Learning in the Wilderness*. The first four focused on the Grand Canyon, Southern Utah (twice), Catalina Island and the Anasazi triangle of New Mexico and Arizona respectively. This version will continue to place a particular emphasis on the integration and inclusion of science topics with special needs students into the outdoor environment. The readings, activities and assessments will explore the history, natural history, geology and geography of some of the Yosemite Valley. A variety of physical activities will provide the foundation for some of these explorations including some of these: rafting, hiking, climbing, biking and horseback riding. In addition, customized lectures will also be provided by the instructors and an expert from the National Park. The course is divided into three sections: Pre-session (May 21)—where an overview of the course, readings, required texts and logistics will be explained; Field Trip (June 22-June 27)—see attached schedule agenda of activities; Post-session-Final Curriculum Plans/Individual projects will be due (to instructor by July 15th).

The instructors all have extensive formal and informal teaching experience in the outdoors. This is the sixth version of Learning in the Wilderness which they have collaborated. Joe Keating is an Associate Professor of Science Education with twenty-five years of K-12 Outdoor Science Education mostly with American Indians; Lee Keyser has a Multiple Subject Credential and over twenty years of Wilderness teaching and guiding experience throughout the western United States; Terri Anderson is a Private Learning Specialist and resource special education teacher in Providence RI and was a high school special educator for over ten years on the Navajo Reservation, where she placed a particular emphasis on using the outdoors.

Required Texts:

Taking Inquiry Outdoors (Bourne) Available at CSUSM Bookstore

Customized Text (Keating, Keyser and Anderson): Selected Articles: "Using the Outdoors with Special Needs Students" and "Environmental Outdoor Activities"(Part 1) and an overview of the Yosemite geology and natural environment . Available at Copyserve (Rancho Santa Fe)

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to demonstrate knowledge, understanding, skill, and appreciation for . . .

1)learning in a natural setting and in particular the history, geology and literature regarding the Yosemite Valley.

2)various activities and assessments that can be applied to learning in the outdoors

3)adaptations for the inclusion of special needs students appropriate to a natural setting

4)the development of an interdisciplinary curriculum planning that focuses on using a natural setting.

5) an in-depth topic of choice (to be integrated into the Interdisciplinary Unit)

Activities:

1) Packet of pre-trip reading materials that overviews the content learning outcomes of course.

High Sierra field trip experience

2) Independent development, implementation and presentation of an outdoor interdisciplinary curriculum plan (including an in-depth project)

Assignments/Assessment

1) Participants are expected to document readings (see customized) and keep a daily **journal** that documents reflections /comments on the experiences (25 Pts)

2) In-depth **individual project** that assists the learner as a resource for his(her) Interdisciplinary Unit Plan (ex. plant collection, slide/video show, drawings, musical piece, research paper, short story etc.). 15 Pts.

3) **Participation/Attendance** in discussions, readings and activities. 30 Pts.

4) **Interdisciplinary Unit curriculum plan** (see attached outline). 30 Pts.

Grading Policy = total points

97-100 = A+

94-96 = A

90-93 = A-

87-89 = B+

84-86 = B

80-83 = B-

75-79 = C+